

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1398

21 May 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + United Nations agencies, to prevent Angola's "forgotten tragedy", appeal for \$226 million for emergency humanitarian aid through April 1994; donors' meeting scheduled for 3 June.
- + Secretary-General says work of Informal Open-Ended Working Group on "An Agenda for Peace" is critical to future of peace-keeping; stresses that peace-keeping is "excellent value for money"; General Assembly President also makes statement.
- + France proposes that UNPROFOR be authorized to use military force to ensure delivery of humanitarian assistance and prevent all acts of aggression in six Bosnian towns declared "safe areas".
- + United Nations establishes Trust Fund for Implementation of the Peace Process in Mozambique; Status of Forces Agreement reached between United Nations and Mozambique, according to Spokesman.
- + Monaco and Eritrea ask for admission to membership in United Nations; Security Council to hold consultations on both countries' requests on Monday, 24 May.
- + About \$6.18 million needed for 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, Secretary-General of Conference tells planning Committee.
- + United Nations team investigating Iraq's ballistic missile programmes returns to Headquarters with information deemed useful for future monitoring and verification activities.
- + Secretary-General appoints Charles Joseph Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada, as Special Representative for Cyprus; Mr. Clark to participate in Cyprus talks at Headquarters next week.

(more)

+ Paris assistance seminar revealed threshold reached in Palestinian question, Chairman tells Palestinian Rights Committee.

* * *

The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) today issued an appeal for \$226 million for emergency humanitarian assistance for Angola. By issuing the appeal now, the DHA said the United Nations intended to prevent Angola's "forgotten tragedy" from being addressed only when images of helpless, starving mothers and children appear on the television screens worldwide.

In September of last year, Angola was a country of hope, conducting the first democratic elections in its history, said the text of the appeal. After sixteen years of bitter warfare and economic stagnation, there was reason to expect that reconciliation between two parties would permit growth and development. But Angola's reality today was one of devastation following the outbreak of hostilities some seven months ago, the appeal said. The level of fighting and human suffering now exceeded "anything seen in the previous sixteen years".

An international donors' meeting will be convened in Geneva on 3 June by Margaret J. Anstee, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola, to generate immediate support for life-sustaining activities such as provision of food aid, seeds and tools; vaccinations; safe water supply and sanitation, and shelter for displaced persons.

The appeal for Angola was prepared by an inter-agency mission consisting of United Nations relief organizations, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations, organized by DHA. Its programmes target a vulnerable population of some 2 million Angolans whose lives have been severely disrupted by civil conflict and drought.

Relief activities will depend on a cease-fire which is one of the main objectives of the Angolan peace talks currently under way in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today told the Informal Open-Ended Working Group on his "An Agenda for Peace" that its work was critical to the future success of peace-keeping. He said in a statement that Member States wanted the United Nations to respond to signs of potential conflict, and he invited them to provide information which might help prevent conflict.

The Secretary-General said he was rationalizing information systems in the Secretariat to take account of the multi-dimensional roots of conflict. Humanitarian assistance was closely tied to preventive diplomacy and the maintenance of peace, and cooperation between United Nations organizations and agencies was being strengthened. Peace-keeping was rapidly evolving as the

(more)

21 May 1993

Organization took on more complex tasks, he continued. A military planning cell had been formed at Headquarters and a situation room had been created to maintain links with operations in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia.

The special economic problems of States resulting from sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter deserved urgent attention, and permanent structures might be needed to deal with them, the statement said. A permanent mechanism for consultations between the Council, the Secretary-General, international financial institutions and Member States might be established.

The Secretary-General stressed that peace-keeping was "excellent value for money", and welcomed the General Assembly's decision to authorize a Peace-keeping Reserve Fund of \$150 million. He noted, however, that only \$64 million had been transferred to the Fund to date.

Also addressing the working group, General Assembly President Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria said the United Nations preventive mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was an example of the ideas in the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" being put into practice.

Mr. Ganev went on to say that he had invited all Member States to attend an informal open-ended ad hoc working group he would convene next Wednesday. He said he would present for consideration two draft resolutions on the rationalization of the General Assembly's committee structure and on the rationalization of its agenda.

* * *

France has proposed that the Security Council draft a new resolution on the role of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the six Bosnian towns declared "safe areas" under resolution 824 (1993), according to a French memorandum, dated 19 May. The new resolution would authorize UNPROFOR to use military force to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance and prevent all acts of aggression, France said. The aim would be to stop territorial gains by the Serbian forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to achieve a negotiated settlement by the parties concerned.

The memorandum presented three options for deployment of which two were "light options" to establish a symbolic United Nations presence. Under the third option UNPROFOR would be strengthened with 15,000 to 20,000 men for Sarajevo and 5,000 for each of the other four areas. France also proposed to create a intervention unit as well as the use of airpower in order to enable the confrontation of potential major aggression.

The memorandum was transmitted in a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 19 May, signed by Jean-Bernard Mérimée, the French Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

In a separate development, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has argued that the Security Council has no mandate to establish an international war crimes tribunal under the United Nations Charter. It

(more)

would be "legally unfounded and arbitrary" since no independent tribunal can be a "subsidiary organ of any body, including the Security Council", the country said in a letter to the Secretary-General. [According to Article 29, the Council may establish subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.]

The Federal Republic also expressed doubts about the "impartiality" of such a war crimes tribunal "because of the one-sided approach of the United Nations Security Council". Besides, it said, reports of various international commissions investigating war crimes were "biased and unsubstantiated".

The letter was from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and dated 17 May.

* * *

The United Nations has established a Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Peace Process in Mozambique. The Fund is earmarked to cover costs associated with requirements for, among others, transport, office space and communications facilities.

The Fund, which is now fully operational, will be managed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mozambique, acting through the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at Headquarters. Various Member States have made commitments to contribute to the Fund, including Italy, which has already made an initial contribution of some \$5.8 million.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman said today that the Status of Forces Agreement between the United Nations and Mozambique was now in place. The Security Council adopted in mid-April resolution 818 (1993) urging the parties to set a timetable for the peace process in Angola and seek agreement with the United Nations on the free movement of troops. The target date for the full deployment of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) was originally 1 May, but because of administrative delays both on the part of the United Nations and the troop contributing countries deployment has not yet been completed.

* * *

The Principality of Monaco has asked to be admitted to the United Nations. The request was contained in a letter to the Secretary-General from the Minister of State of Monaco, dated 14 May, declaring that Monaco accepted the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and pledged to carry them out.

According to a United Nations spokesman today, Eritrea has also asked to be admitted to membership of the United Nations. The Security Council will hold consultations on both countries' requests for membership on Monday, 24 May.

* * *

(more)

About \$6.18 million would be needed for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the Conference, told its Preparatory Committee this morning. Of that amount, \$4.38 million had already been pledged, leaving an outstanding balance of \$1.8 million.

Announcing that Japan was likely to contribute another \$500,000, Dr. Sadik expressed the hope that contributions would come not only from the donor countries but also from "colleagues and Governments in the developing world".

Also this morning, United States delegate Timothy Wirth said that his Government fully supported the agenda and the goals of the Conference and would do its utmost to assure its success. President Clinton would ask the Legislature to incorporate funding for population-related initiatives in its foreign aid programmes, he said.

The Conference is scheduled to be held from 5 to 13 September, 1994, in Cairo.

* * *

Dennis Vincent, Chief Inspector of the second interim monitoring team investigating Iraq's ballistic missile programmes has returned to Headquarters after completing a 52-day mission in Iraq, from 27 March to 17 May.

In a press release issued today in New York, the Special Commission, comprised of five experts from the United States, the Russian Federation and Germany, stated that the purpose of the mission was to investigate and assess Iraq's capabilities to produce solid propellant missile systems and to establish the relationships between the various facilities involved in such activities with the Military Industrialization Corporation. The team's activities centred around two facilities - the Al Rasheed Factory, comprising three plants, and the Al Qa'qaa' Establishment; in addition, the inspectors visited a research centre, and other sites related to missile research and development in and around Baghdad.

The information obtained by the team has improved the Commission's understanding of Iraq's past weapons programmes and of its technology baseline. This information should be of use "as and when the Commission is able to commence ongoing monitoring and verification activities, in accordance with the plan approved by Security Council resolution 715 (1991)", said the press release. Implementation of this plan is being delayed by Iraq's refusal to acknowledge its obligations under resolution 707 (1991) and 715 (1991).

The Special Commission was set up under Security Council resolution 687 (1991), in connection with the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Charles Joseph (Joe) Clark of Canada as his Special Representative for Cyprus with

(more)

immediate effect, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Clark formerly served as Prime Minister and as Foreign Minister of Canada.

Mr. Clark will participate next week in talks to be convened at Headquarters by the Secretary-General with the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, the spokesman said. He recalled that Deputy Special Representative Gustave Feissel had been carrying out consultations on the island for the last few weeks.

* * *

The Chairman of the Committee on the Rights of the Palestinian People, Mr. Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), has said that a recent Paris Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian people revealed a growing expectation by the international community that a threshold had been reached in the long history of the Palestinian question.

Mr. Cisse told the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People this morning that participants at the 26 to 29 April Seminar had agreed that a comprehensive Palestinian economic development plan would be a major factor in achieving the independent development of the Palestinian people. It was felt that they would soon be able to take charge of their own future and exercise economic, as well as political, decision-making, he said.

* * * * *